N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

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IRAQI PRESIDENT'S SPEECH READ TO PAN-ARAB CONFERENCE

JN251608 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the opening session of the pan-Arab people's conference in Baghdad on 25 March--read by Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member; recorded]

[Text] Esteemed brother heads and representatives of the Arab political parties and forces and of the popular federations and vocational unions; esteemed participants and guests:

On behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and on behalf of the RCC I greet you and warmly welcome you in your country, Iraq of Arabism and revolution. I appreciate your response and participation in this pan-Arab people's conference and hope your response and participation in this pan-Arab people's conference and hope your conference will achieve its desired objectives along the path of serving our Arab nation's aims.

Dear brothers, your historic meeting in Baghdad comes at a delicate stage in the Arab struggle and amid international circumstances characterized by seriousness and an intensified dispute between the world superpowers and by the conflicting strategies of these superpowers in order to distribute among themselves the zones of influence in the world.

Since the beginning of this century, our Arab nation has been exposed to the vilest imperialist plot, in alliance with world Zionism, local reaction and agent regime's. This plot let to the dismembering of our large homeland into statelets and other parts. Moreover, Palestine was usurped and its Arab people were displaced. Other parts were also robbed to achieve the greedy interests of imperialism and the natural resources looted, foremost of which is oil. Imperialism also aimed at opening our markets to its goods.

U.S. imperialism has played a prominent role in establishing and supporting the usurping, racist Zionist entity, covering the expansionist Zionist aggressions, justifying its settlement policies, defending it at international rostrums, and supplying it with all that enables it to carry out its task as a spearhead for imperialism. This has taken the form of supplying it with economic aid and highly sophisticated weapons.

Imperialism has escalated its hostile stand toward our nation through all sorts of conspiratorial methods, the last of which were the conclusion of the two Camp David accords between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist entity, the signing of the treasonous peace treaty and the normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity in order to impose the capitulatory scheme on the Arabs, consecrate the Zionist aggression and occupation of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories and to crush the will of the Arab masses that aspire to liberation, unity and progress.

The United States has planned and practiced--and is still planning and practicing--all forms of pressure against and encirclement of the national and progressive Arab regimes which have managed to adopt an independent policy. It has tried to tie our region to aggressive military alliances and to plant in this region a chain of air, land and sea bases so as to exercise terrorism and intimidation and to brandish its heavy club against our nation's masses.

U.S. imperialism has exploited the crisis of the hostages in its embassy in Tehran and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan to move its fleets and exert pressure on some regimes that have links with it in the Arab Gulf region in order to blatantly restore its influence in the Arab Gulf region and prepare for its occupation of the rich oil fields in this strategic region, which is vital for world peace and the stability of the world economy.

The implementation of the capitulatory scheme as represented in the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat alliance was accompanied by attempts to explode the situation in more than one Arab country, to stir up a civil war in Lebanon, spark off sectarian sedition, fabricate border problems between some Arab states, circulate concepts contrary to the socialist pan-Arab ideology, push the Zionist forces to intensify their aggression and to commission some countries that neighbor our nation to preoccupy the Arabs and exhaust their efforts in peripheral disputes. But the links of this diabolical scheme were doomed to failure one after the other due to the masses' awareness and to these masses' revolutionary forces.

The initiative of the party and its revolutionary authority in Iraq came on 1 October 1978 when the ninth Arab summit conference was held in Baghdad to stop the collapse and downfall as well as the psychological depression which was meant to shake the Arab masses' confidence after the signing of the Camp David accords. This summit also aimed at achieving the minimum possible Arab solidarity and at mobilizing the Arab efforts politically, militarily, economically and in the information field, in the face of the forces that are hostile to our nation's aspirations.

The Baghdad summit succeeded in achieving an important victory in a short period of time despite Arab circumstances at the time. The summit succeeded in foiling the aims of the American-As-Sadat-Zionist alliance, which was wagering on involving other Arab regimes, implementing the autonomy conspiracy in the West Bank and Gaza and falsifying the will of the Arabs in the occupied territory.

Brother strugglers, our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, [applause] has succeeded in clearly expressing the aims of the nation and defining the course toward achieving Arab aspirations by emphasizing the Arab nation's special status and pride in its culture and humanitarian legacy. The party has succeeded in leading the Arab masses' struggle against dictatorship and hostile pacts in more than one Arab country and in foiling many imperialist plans and Zionist and reactionary designs and plots to the extent that the party's slogan of "Unity, Freedom and Socialism" has become the main objective of pan-Arab struggle everywhere in the great Arab homeland.

Our party, and its strugglers, continued to be subjected to all methods of oppression and terrorism until it succeeded on 17-30 July 1968 [applause] in carrying out its heroic revolution in Iraq and in introducing radical changes in the structure of our society and the march of our masses through the industrialization program, agrarian reform, the nationalization of trade, the establishment of national [wataniyah] unity on firm humanitarian bases, the establishment of the National Progressive Front, the adoption of a number of democratic measures and practices, the bolstering of popular and trade union organizations and people's councils and the preparations for holding the National Assembly elections soon now that the laws for the autonomous region's National Assembly and Legislative Council have been promulgated, thereby completing the process of progressive democracy.

The leadership of the party and the revolution has succeeded in striking at the world monopolies by nationalizing the oil and all its operations and channeling its enormous revenues toward achieving comprehensive development, and using oil as a potent weapon in crucial Arab battles against the Arab nation's enemies; namely, the imperialists, Zionists and defeatists.

In all the measures it has adopted, the July revolution has aimed at liberating the Arab human being and unleashing his creative powers, removing all fears about the future and exploiting Arab expertise in building our homeland by depending on its own vast resources and human effort. We are fully aware that our struggle with the enemy, who usurped Palestine and Arab territory, is an all-out struggle between two cultures which calls for pooling the Arab nation's resources and efforts and mobilizing its military, economic and cultural potentials on an advanced scientific basis.

Comrades, a quick glance at the Arab political map shows three trends governing the positions taken by the various forces and regimes. The first trend is linked with imperialism and all its main forces. The continuation of this trend and the maintenance of its privileges and positions depends on carrying out the wishes of the Western imperialist capitals, satisfying their ravenous appetite for oil, consuming their manufactured goods and conforming to their policy of usurping the masses' rights and democratic liberties.

The second trend is neither concerned with pan-Arab sovereignty nor independence. Thus, this trend has associated itself with the superpowers under doctrinal guises which cannot disguise its reality: subservience to those superpowers.

The third trend is the independent pan-Arab trend, which believes in raising the interests of the nation above other interests, defending the nation's rights and dignity, liberating the nation and deviating from any rigid ideological molds or political conditions made in advance which fetter its independent will.

Ever since the first years of its establishment, our party has called for positive neutrality and nonalinement with all their liberation aspects which are opposed to imperialism, aggression, exploitation and discrimination. Our party believes this independent course is in accordance with the nation's will, expresses its real pan-Arab interests and contributes to diminishing acute tension and international polarization, removing the specter of destructive wars and establishing security, stability and peace in the world.

Through its international stands and distinctive relations, revolutionary Iraq embodied a national pan-Arab course which is in accordance with our people's and nation's aspirations and established relations of friendship and cooperation with most of the world states within the framework of mutual respect for sovereignty, dealing on an equal basis and joint interests. Revolutionary Iraq did not confuse the principles and the wrong policies adopted by some states, policies which do not conform to the principles of the peoples' rights to determine their fate and noninterference in the peoples' affairs in any way.

Brothers, it was in such an Arab and international atmosphere in which ambitions, imperialist and Zionist threats prevail and the superpowers' schemes conflict that we proposed the national charter with its eight principles. We feel the burden of the historical responsibility we are shouldering and hope to organize Arab relations and prevent the use of armed force in settling regional disputes between brothers.

We utterly reject the presence of armies or foreign military bases on Arab territory and granting facilities to foreign powers. Indeed, we believe in respecting the international charters and treaties between the nation's states and neighbors, guaranteeing the Arab homeland's complete neutrality where international conflicts are concerned and affirming its independence and nonalinement to any international side.

The warm response to and official and popular welcome of the national charter expresses our nation's pride in its dignity, adherence to its principles and independence and rejection of all forms of subservience to and association with the foreigner. Indeed, such a warm response and welcome clearly proves the Arab nation's unshaken belief in its unity, the solidarity and cohesion of its sons in their confrontation of their enemies and plunderers of their freedom, land and wealth.

Brother strugglers, yes, we had the honor of proposing the initiative through announcing the national charter. However, you get the credit for embracing this charter, studying it and enriching it with positive and constructive ideas and proposals, since you believe in the interaction and importance of democratic dialog in order to reach the best form of joint popular pan-Arab action.

Thus, we call on you to proceed from the premise of the national charter in order to crystallize an Arab strategy which will mobilize all the progressive national and pan-Arab elements, coordinate between all the organized wide-ranging masses' potentials through a program of struggle which adheres to the nation's aspirations and includes all the nation's needs for liberation, pan-Arab unity and progress in order to lead the struggle of the millions toward achieving its central aims.

Comrades, we aspire to the birth of a wide front that includes all parties, political organizations, popular fedetions professional unions and the independent national and democratic figures which believe in the Arab nation, its growing progressive movement and independent and nonalined course.

Yes, it is a long and arduous mission but, at the same time, it is an urgent demand which has to be achieved. Indeed, there is no excuse for those who do not contribute to implementing this mission since we are confronting a great threat and a dangerous multi-faceted plot which behooves us to rally all the nation's potentials in order to attain a final victory.

Finally, we as men of struggle pledge to you grothers that we shall always remain loyal to our pan-Arab principles, give all forms of support to and participate in the struggle of our Arab Palestinian people and their armed groups, back the Lebanese national elements in defending Lebanon's unity and maintaining its Arabism and indepdence and support the struggle of our Arab people in Egypt against the hireling traitorous As-Sadat clique. [applause]

We also pledge to continue supporting every Arab who raises arms against oppression and injustice to establish peace and justice until the Arab indivudal is liberated and the bases for a unified democratic socialist Arab society are founded.

May you always achieve success. May your noble sentiments be strengthened. Victory is always the ally of those who struggle for their homeland and their nation's glory and dignity. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you.

VIENNA PAPER PUBLISHES 'ARAFAT LETTER TO KREISKY

AU270957 Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 27 Mar 80 p 5 AU

[AZ report: "AZ Publishes Letter by the PLO Chief; Kreisky Himself Suggested 'Arafat Letter"]

[Text] Vienna (AZ)--Early in November, after Chancellor Kreisky's return from New York, Dr Ghazi Husayn, the PLO representative at the international agencies in Vienna, asked the chancellor for elucidations regarding Kreisky's big speech before the United Nations in which he had advocated a recognition of the PLO. Kreisky declared that he meant just what he had said, and it would be best if PLO Chairman 'Arafat were to outline his reaction to the speech in a letter. Kreisky's answer to 'Arafat's letter, dated 5 December 1979, was prepared long ago, but was only signed on 11 March.

Kreisky passed on 'Arafat's letter to Foreign Minister Pahr before Christmas and asked him to settle the matter. In his reply, Kreisky acknowledged on behalf of the Austrian Government Husayn's appointment as PLO representative to the Austrian Government, and informed 'Arafat that the Austrian authorities concerned would be duly instructed. In accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, Husayn would be given every aid and support required for the fulfillment of his official tasks.

'Arafat's Letter

ARBEITER-ZEITUNG is in the position of being the first paper to publish 'Arafat's letter. [The paper carries a facsimile reproduction of the letter written in Arabic] Its German translation runs as follows: Our request and esteem for you personally and for your great contribution to all international affairs, especially the Middle East question and its central problem, the Palestinian cause, requires that we follow with great interest all your statements, commentaries and activities in this field.

We have noted your speech before the UN General Assembly during its 34th session, on 29 October 1979, in which you appeal to all countries in the world, including the West European countries, to recognize the PLO. This must be regarded as a step forward and as a positive initiative for the development of the Palestinian relations with these countries, especially with the Republic of Austria.

Our sincere wish and our deep hope of promoting our relations with your friendly country at all levels induces us to appoint brother Ghazi Husayn as official PLO representative to the Austrian Government. On my behalf, as well as on behalf of the Palestinian people and its only legitimate representative, the PLO. I take this opportunity to convey to you, our dear friend, to your friendly people and your esteemed government our sincere greetings and to express our high esteem.

With my respect and my esteem, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, general commander of the armed forces of the Palestinian revolution

Beirut, 5 December 1979

The Israeli Journalist Ben Porat wrote in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that Kreisky is firmly determined "to demand from the PLO an essential change in the Palestinian National Charter and the elimination of any indication of a striving for Israel's destruction. The Association of the Jewish Youth of Austria staged a protest march against Austria's recognition of the PLO on Tuesday.

PAN-ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE HOLDS SECOND SESSION

Chairman's Speech

JN261126 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The second working session of the Pan-Arab People's Conference, presided over by 'Abd al-Majid Farid, the National Egyptian Movement's representative, began at Al-Mansur Hotel this morning.

In his short opening statement, the chairman of the conference said: Our people in Egypt are unifying their ranks for the second time in the march of struggle. Our people believe in two facts: First, that struggle, which has been a clear mark in their history and sheer allegations, is their fate; second, that all their victorious battles have been waged for the sake of the Arab nation and in cooperation with Arab brothers.

The chairman added: Our people in Egypt require nothing from you other than the declaration of struggle in all Arab territory against colonialism and those who conspire against our Arab nation. Our Egyptian people have made a pledge to the Arab nation that they will be the pulse of life in Egypt and that they will protect its Arabism. They will remain steadfast as long as life lasts. Egypt will continue hoisting its flag and shouting: God is greater; victory [words indistinct].

Syrian, PDRY Speakers

JN262035 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] The participants in the Pan-Arab People's Conference continued delivering their speeches at the third session, which began in the hall of Al-Mansur Hotel this evening.

Ahmad Muhfil delivered the speech of the Syrian Communist Party and said: In light of the Arab League Charter, the Joint Defense Pact and the basic phenomena that have recently emerged in the political arena, the national declaration of President Saddam Husayn has the principles that give the minimum bases for dealing with political events.

He said: Syria is witnessing acute political events that have destroyed all the regime's attempts to preserve the manifestations of internal stability and exposed the deep abyss separating the rulers from the people's masses. They have also showed the expansion of the people's indignation of the policy imposed on the country--a policy which has led it to economic ruin, political bankruptcy and the disruption of national unity.

He concluded his speech by saying: Our people in Syria will continue their struggle and nothing will turn them away from imposing a fundamental change, toppling the regime and establishing a democratic national regime that will restore to Syria its Arab and nationalist role.

In the speech of the pan-Arab grouping of the national forces in South Yemen, 'Abdallah al-Haythami expressed the South Yemeni people's support for President Saddam Husayn's national declaration.

'Abdallah al-Haythami called on the conference to condemn the foreign presence in the southern part of Yemen--a presence which comes with the approval of the agent separatist ruling regime, which is holding sway over the destinies of the Arab people there. He said: The regime has allowed foreign forces to desecrate our territory's chastity. He called on the conference to work for saving a number of detained citizens whose trials are being conducted by the agent authority for refusing to follow its line and relinquish the pan-Arab principles of the Arab nation.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ISSUES STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM

JN261508 Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 March--The General Islamic Conference on Jerusalem has appealed to the Arab and Islamic world to take the necessary measures to prevent the Israeli occupation authorities from continuing their implementation of their short-term plan which is aimed against Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock and their courtyards.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the conference warned against the serious Zionist intentions to implement the hostile Zionist plans against Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. It also called on the Arabs and Muslims as well as the official and popular Arab and Islamic bodies to raise this fateful issue in all international rostrums in order to acquaint the Arab, Islamic and world public with the Zionist aggressive intentions and the dangers of these intentions against the Islamic holy places.

ARAB LEAGUE CONCLUDES REGULAR SESSION

LD270708 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Arab League Council this evening concluded its (?73d) regular session by approving the recommendations which were referred to it by its subcommittees. At the beginning of the meeting this evening, Arab League Secretary Genral Chedli Klibi delivered a speech in which he emphasized the importance of Afro-Arab cooperation, in view of the ties which unite the African peoples and the Arab nation. As for inter-Arab relations, Klibi referred to the Tunisian-Libyan conflict and hoped that the four-member committee would be able to meet soon to deal with the situation arising from the continued tension between the two countries. Klibi praised the struggle waged by the PLO to achieve recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people and their great organization as their lawful and sole representative.

Then Ahmad 'Abd al-Malik Yasin, the permanent Iraqi delegate, pointed out in his speech that participants in this session had stressed their desire to preserve national interests, referring in particular to the adherence of everyone to the spirit of the Baghdad and Tunis conferences.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, who presided over the final meeting, also spoke, praising the spirit of cooperation which pervaded the session.

At the end of the session, the Arab League Council issued a number of resolutions relating in particular to Arab-African cooperation and the Palestinian question.

PDRY

OPPOSITION GROUPS FORM FRONT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

JN262058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 26 March--The formation of a grouping of Yemeni progressive national and patriotic forces opposed to the South Yemeni regime was announced here today. The announcement was made during a press conference held by the representatives of the grouping at the Al-Mansur Hotel tonight. The press conference was attended by Dr Qasim Sallam, member of the Ba'th Party National Command.

A statement issued on the occasion said that the conferees, prompted by their sense of responsibility and the urgent need for solidarity, have agreed to do all they can to liberate South Yemen from the authority of the secessionists and their overlords and to consider the struggle against that fascist puppet regime and all forms of foreign presence in South Yemen a national and patriotic duty. The conferees have also agreed that all organizations inside and outside the South Yemen arena shall not undertake any activity conflicting with the activity of the preparatory committee.

The conferees decided to form a grouping of all existing organizations and independent national and patriotic figures under the name of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in South Yemen [At-Tajammu' al-Qawmi li al Quwa al-Wateniyah fi al-Janub al-Yamani]. The statement announces that the conferees have decided to form a preparatory committee to prepare for a general popular conference of the representatives of all organizations, progressive national and patriotic forces and groups and independent and democratic elements opposed to the puppet fascist regime in power in South Yemen. [passage indistinct]

The statement calls on fraternal and friendly states, organizations and parties to support the just cause of the South Yemeni people and to give every assistance and support to enable them to play their national, patriotic and humanitarian duty in saving the Arabism of that part of the Arab homeland, liberating it from foreign occupation and reunifying both parts of Yemen.

'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi, chairman of the preparatory committee, said in a speech on the occasion: This committee is the first step toward building a better future for our people in South Yemen and achieving the unity of the two parts of Yemen.

Makkawi added: The work awaiting us is difficult and long. We expect everyone to work for this sublime objective and for our struggle which is a continuation of our struggle against old colonialism.

Makkawi expressed thanks to the leadership of the party and the revolution in Iraq under President Saddam Husayn for providing the conferees with the right atmosphere to achieve their cherished objectives.

MENA: FORMER SHAH TO BE OPERATED ON 29 MAR

Health Improvement

NC262028 Cairo MENA in English 2015 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 26--The surgery on the former shah of Iran to remove his cancerous spleen is expected to be performed on Saturday at the armed forces hospital, the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY has learned.

Sources close to the team of attending physicians said that the former shah's condition began to improve today and his temperature began to go down to normal.

Attempts are still being made to increase the former shah's blood platelets in preparation for the surgery.

A team of American physicians who had participated earlier in the treatment of the former shah will arrive in Cairo early tomorrow to join their Egyptian colleagues.

The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY has learned that it will be left to the former shah to choose the performing surgeons.

One of the team of Egyptian physicians said that Egyptian surgeons had successfully performed similar operations in the past, and the armed forces hospital is well equipped to undertake such surgeries.

American Doctors' Arrival

NC262228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--Dr Michael DeBakey, American heart transplant specialist, arrived in Cairo this evening leading a delegation of U.S. doctors including a surgeon and (?two) American specialists to join the Egyptian team of doctors treating the former shah of Iran at Al-Ma'adi Armed Forces Hospital.

The American doctors brought with them aboard a special plane from Texas some modern medical equipment necessary to treat the shah as well as some medicines and quantities of blood.

AL-AHRAM Report

NC270948 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (AFP)--The ex-shah of Iran, waiting in a Cairo hospital since Monday to have his cancerous spleen removed, is in critical condition and his doctors are racing against time, according to the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM today.

His spleen has swelled to ten times its normal size because of the cancer, and his wife, the empress Farah, authorised the operation as the only way to save his life, the paper said. The spleen was in danger of bursting, it said.

The operation would be performed whatever the ex-shah's general state of health, the paper added. Doctors also feared he might suffer an internal hemorrhage, it said.

KHALIL MEETS LINOWITZ IN ALEXANDRIA

NC261402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria 26 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil met with Sol Linowitz, the envoy of U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the Palestinian autonomy discussions, at the Palestine Hotel today.

The meeting, which lasted about 3 hours, was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and by James Leonard, the alternate head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy discussions, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

MENA has learned that the conferees made a comprehensive evaluation of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations and of the preparations for the next round of these discussions, which will begin at 1030 Thursday at the San Stefano Hotel in Alexandria. The heads of the delegations will hold a tripartite meeting in which Dr Mustafa Khalil, Sol Linowitz and Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg will participate. The tripartite meeting will be followed by a plenary session of the Autonomy Negotiations Committee.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL CONTINUES NEGOTIATIONS ON AUTONOMY

Meets With Plenary Delegation

NC261600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 26 March--The Egyptian delegation to the Plenary Committee of the Palestinian Autonomy Negotiations has met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil in the Palestine Hotel to make preparations for the autonomy negotiations Thursday.

MENA has learned that during the meeting 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, Egyptian representative to the steering committee, which met in Tel Aviv last Sunday and Monday, presented a detailed report to Dr Mustafa Khalil about the outcome of the steering committee work and the agenda it prepared for the autonomy negotiations tomorrow.

MENA has also learned that Egypt has insisted that the draft agenda include only the basic topics on the powers and jurisdictions of the full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza, but not the procedural matters, since only 2 months remain in which to conclude the negotiations, necessitating a thrust to discussing the fundamentals. These include the subjects of security, Jerusalem, the settlements, the transfer of various powers and jurisdictions of the Israeli military governor, including civil administration, to the elected Palestinian authority while stressing that elections also be held in East Jerusalem, as a part of the West Bank.

It was learned that the draft agenda also includes issuing the necessary directives for the functions of the two new committees--the legislative and the economic committees--the formation of which was agreed upon at the recent meeting in The Hague.

Cairo Press Conference

NC202145 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At a meeting with foreign reporters in Cairo this evening Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said that Egypt has always been keen to respect the principles stipulated in the Camp David agreements regarding the establishment of full Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. The prime minister added that the Washington meetings between U.S. President Carter and President Anwar as-Sadat and between the U.S. President and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will lead to some type of agreement on the basic points of the Palestinian autonomy.

Dr Mustafa Khalil went on to say that there is a gap between the Egyptian and Israeli points of view, particularly regarding the topics connected with security within the framework of autonomy.

Answering reporters' questions, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that Egypt's understanding of the autonomy is that the military and civilian powers of the Israeli military governor should be transferred to the Palestinian authority directly after its establishment and that these powers are indivisible. This, he added, conflicts with the Israeli point of view. Dr Mustafa Khalil further said that Egypt will support any European initiative aimed at establishing comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Concerning the problem of Jerusalem, Dr Khalil emphasized that East Jerusalem is part of the West Bank.

Answering a question on the Israeli settlements, Dr Khalil said that Egypt joins world opinion in condemning the establishment of settlements because this is an illegal action inconsistent with international principles.

Regarding relations between Egypt and the Arab states, Dr Khalil said Egypt has always sought to establish good relations with the Arab states but it was the Arab states which severed their relations with Egypt. The attitude of these states does not serve the Palestinian question nor does it serve peace in the region or in the world, he added.

Asked about contacts between Egypt and the PLO, Dr Khalil said that there are no official contacts with the PLO but the United States represented by Sol Linowitz, has held some contacts with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Asked about the participation of the Palestinians in the peace process and the means leading to this, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that an agreement on autonomy would encourage the Palestinians to participate in the peace process. Dr Mustafa Khalil referred to some facts which obstructed the progress of the autonomy negotiations [words indistinct] the discussion of the topics related to security but Israel refused this. Israel should have [words indistinct] should have coordinated all these topics and raised them at the negotiating table, particularly the problems vital to it, such as the security problems.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES AL-MINUFIYAH TRADE UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

NC261727 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--President Anwar as-Sadat met today with the representatives of the trade unions in Al-Minufiyah Governorate. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, National Democratic Party Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd and Al-Minufiyah Governor Mahmud Mahrus.

Representatives of the associations of teachers, lawyers, applied sciences, merchants, doctors and agricultural engineers spoke at the meeting. They expressed their loyalty and absolute support for the leader, who has offered much effort, thought and achievements to his people; what As-Sadat has achieved will remain a brilliant landmark in the Egyptian people's history.

President as-Sadat made a statement expressing his happiness with the professionals who are living with their patriotic feelings every battle we are waging for the people. He said that the Egyptian people have not made a single mistake in comprehending any decision I have made for Egypt.

President as-Sadat pointed out the noble and splendid stand of the masses of the Egyptian people in hosting the shah of Iran. He said that this stand is a genuine expression of Egypt's nobility and civilization as much as an expression of their rejection of any guardianship over their will.

President as-Sadat spoke of democracy, which will remain the cornerstone in building Egypt. He stressed that there can be no building or progress without democracy, which will achieve domestic construction for every citizen in Egypt.

As-Sadat said that there will be no place in Egypt for spite or fear because under democracy there will be no fear or grudges. He said that those who cultivate rancor and fear in Egypt are the same people who are living under the canopy of freedom and democracy and who are exploiting it to turn back the hands of the clock.

President as-Sadat pointed out that the democracy that the masses in Egypt are practicing is for Man's pride, guaranteeing complete freedom of opinion and of opposing opinion. It is also for achieving security for citizens. The Egyptian people are aware of all that is being plotted to usurp the gains which the Egyptian people wrenched by blood and sweat. The Egyptian people will absolutely not allow this democracy to be used as an umbrella for opportunism or hopes for class rule or the rule of those who seek to impose themselves as an elite above the people.

In conclusion, President as-Sadat said: We say "yes" to opinions and opposing opinions with complete freedom and guarantees. However, we completely (?reject) fear and negativism. There will be no return to the rule of opportunism or the procedures that harm the citizen's pride and humanity.

FRENCH ENVOY BRIEFS AS-SADAT ON GISCARD MIDEAST TRIP

NC261731 Cairo MENA in English 1715 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 26--President Anwar as-Sadat received here today the personal envoy of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, currently visiting here.

The French envoy briefed President as-Sadat on the results of the French president's recent visit to the Arab area and his view on the talks of the autonomy for the Palestinians in the light of what is known as they will conclude on May 26, this year.

President as-Sadat also received the son of Shah Reza Pahlavi with Jamal Anwar as-Sadat attending.

AL-AKHBAR REPORTS AS-SADAT'S SCHEDULE FOR U.S. VISIT

NC270700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports that President Anwar as-Sadat will hold three working sessions with President Carter and his aides at the White House on 8 and 9 April. The first session will be held Tuesday morning 8 April and the second on the evening of the same day. The final session will be held Wednesday morning 9 April.

The paper adds that President as-Sadat is expected to address the National Press Club which includes representatives of U.S. and world media.

President as-Sadat will also meet with a number of Senate and House leaders despite the fact that Congress will be in Easter recess from 4 to 14 April. He will also meet with a number of other prominent American personalities.

The president is due in Washington on 7 April. He will be there until the evening of 10 April.

AL-AHRAM: ISRAELI CABINET MUST PROVIDE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS OF TALKS

NC230806 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] AL-AHRAM, in today's editorial under the headline "Israel's Historic Responsibility," says: The Israeli Cabinet is scheduled to meet today to discuss President Anwar as-Sadat's personal message to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, which official sources in Tel Aviv have described as rude and as one in which the president is holding the Begin government responsible for the failure of the autonomy talks, which only have 2 months remaining in which to achieve progress.

The paper adds: Both Israel's historic responsibility and Menahem Begin's personal responsibility dictate that the Israeli prime minister should not stand in the middle of the road. The Israeli Cabinet's responsibility today dictates that it should realize the importance, seriousness and delicacy of the phase through which the peace process is now passing. Moreover, the Cabinet should provide the opportunity for a new dawn to break--a dawn that is trying to end the darkness of the past and make the forthcoming summit meeting in Washington, and beofre it, the Alexandria meeting--which is scheduled to begin in 2 days--a good and logical preface for ending and abolishing Israeli obduracy.

AL-FARNUWANI NOMINATED AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE

NC230739 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Egypt has nominated Ambassador Ahmad Taha al-Farnuwani, the Egyptian ambassador to Zambia, to be the first Egyptian ambassador to Zimbabwe, which will become independent on 18 April.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SENDS MEMO PROTESTING BANI-SADR STATEMENTS

JN261355 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad this afternoon and handed him a strongly worded protest memo on the statements made by Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr regarding the occupied Arab islands. This was announced by an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who said that the above-mentioned statements are only a reiteration of Iran's previous stands and its expansionist ambitions at the expense of the neighboring countries and an attempt to establish hegemony over the areas.

He added that these statements belittle the independence of the region's states and constitute a blatant interference in their internal affairs, something which is contrary to the provisions of the UN charter and the principles of neighborliness between states. Moreover, these statements embody Iran's aggressive and expansionist intentions toward the Arab states. He said that these statements also give expression to expansionist concepts and ambitions which are no different from the former shah's ambitions.

The Foreign Ministry official spokesman concluded his statement by saying: The memo warned the Iranian Government against the consequences of the racist and expansionist concepts propagated by the imperialist states' agents in various parts of the world and against which the world peoples have struggled and are still struggling. The memo also held the Iranian Government responsible for its actions and the repercussions of these aggressive policies. The memo affirmed that the Republic of Iraq will reply with all its might to any behavior resulting from these hostile policies out of its desire to safeguard the pan-Arab rights and the unity of Arab soil.

It will be recalled that Iran President Bani-Sadr had stated to AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI magazine that Iran will not abandon or return the three Arab islands and that the Arab states of Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Oman, Dubai, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are not independent states.

ALGERIA'S PRESIDENT BENDJEDID ARRIVES 26 MAR

JN261128 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 March--Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived here at noon today on a 2-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. The Algerian president was accorded a mammoth official reception. He was received by President Saddam Husayn, the RCC members, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, high-ranking Iraqi officials and members of the Arab diplomatic corps in Baghdad. The official talks between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Chadli Bendjedid will begin later today.

Official Talks

JN261637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--The Iraqi-Algerian party and official talks between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Chadli Bendjedid began here today. At the beginning of their session of talks, the two presidents exchanged words in which they stressed the importance of enhancing struggle in order to face the imperialist and Zionist plots to which our Arab nation is exposed.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: KING HUSAYN WILL NOT VISIT U.S. SOON

JN261932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Commenting on what was reiterated in the foreign press and media on His Majesty King Husayn's possible imminent visit to the United States, a Jordanian official source has announced the following:

His Majesty King Husayn has received an invitation from President Jimmy Carter to visit him in Washington to discuss the area's affairs as well as other international issues during the first opportunity he gets to visit the United States at the invitation of several U.S. scientific and cultural organizations. However, due to his majesty's national and international commitments, his majesty the king will not have a chance to visit the United States within the next few months. A new date for his majesty's visit to Washington to meet with President Carter has not yet been agreed on.

COMMENTARY REVIEWS FIRST YEAR OF AUTONOMY TALKS

JN262047 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] One whole year has passed since the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. A glance at the outcome of this treaty on the Arab and Israeli levels shows the political quagmire in which Egypt has involved itself, the Palestine question, Arab rights and future peace in the Middle East.

After 13 rounds of Egyptian-Israeli talks and continuous U.S. mediation, all the world hears now is the same extremist Israeli stands, and all it sees is the steady deterioration of the Egyptian stand as demonstrated by unjustifiable new concessions which will only lead to Egypt's further isolation, weakness and lack of political vision. This is compounded by the confused U.S. stand and Washington's retreat from the fundamental principles it previously announced and which it used to cover its own failure in finding solutions to the basic issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially Palestinian rights, Jerusalem and the conflict over the land.

What is the outcome of the first year of the separate treaty? What have the bilateral talks and the tripartite efforts achieved for the Palestine question? As a result of the Camp David accords, Egypt left the Arab world and abandoned the Arab cause. Israel established ties with Egypt under the slogan of normalization. The Israeli flag was hoisted in Cairo while Israeli troops are still occupying Egyptian territory and Israel is still exploiting Egyptian oil and preventing Egypt from exercising its full sovereignty over the territory evacuated by the Israeli forces. Meanwhile, Israel is bragging that Egypt has become its strategic ally in the region as a result of the separate peace deal. The accords have isolated Egypt, divided the Arabs and created a new axis against the Arab world and the Islamic east.

The autonomy talks, which Egypt and the United States have presented as the alternative solution to the Palestine question, are still where they started, bogged down in conflicting formulas and concepts. The least that can be said about them is that they are far removed from the aspirations and rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab national objectives which guided Arab policy during the past 30 years.

After 13 rounds of talks, Egypt and Israel cannot find a solution to single basic point. On the contrary, Israel has made it absolutely clear that the autonomy will be based on the Israeli concept which, contrary to international law, makes a distinction between the population of Palestine and the land of Palestine, denies the Palestinian identity of the land and calls for its annexation as part of Eretz Yisrael. The Israel stand was expressed by the chief Israeli negotiator Yosef Borg when he says that Israel will not allow the autonomy to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, that Israel will not give up its right to set up settlements in what he termed Eretz Yisrael, that the occupied territory will not come under Arab sovereignty and that the separate Sinai agreement, which provides for phased Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, will not serve as a model for a West Bank settlement.

The world has affirmed under the UN General Assembly resolution of 3 November 1979 its rejection of the Zionist practices and devious policies which are based on Israeli concepts and designs. Europe has also expressed the conviction that the Camp David accords cannot achieve any progress toward peace. And, in a recent issue, the New York TIMES stressed the belief of large sections of the American public that what the Carter administration termed as a great achievement in the Middle East is just a deception which will lead to the aggravation of the conflict rather than the achievement of peace.

All this proves the sound Arab stand in rejecting Egyptian deviation and its outcome and also the sound Jordanian warning against the Camp David accords, which overlooked the crux of the problem. The answer to all this is the rallying around the Arab stand in accordance with an integral Arab strategy, which upholds Arab rights and prevents deviation and unilateral action.

INDUSTRY MINISTER RELIEVES PUBLIC COMPANY DIRECTORS

JN261210 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus, 26 March--Syrian Industry Minister Dr Husayn al-Qadi has issued a decree relieving the directors of six public sector companies and establishments of their posts and placing these companies under his control. The number of company and establishment directors who have been relieved of their posts since the beginning of this month has reached 21 directors general in several Syrian cities and provinces.

This measure is part of the Syrian command's decision to deal with the situation in the Syrian public industry sector. It has been learned that more, similar decisions will be made during the next few days concerning companies, organizations and vocational associations with the purpose of introducing radical reforms into the Syrian internal situation.

KUWAITI PAPER NOTES FORMATION OF OPPOSITION FRONT

JN261118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 26 March--Press reports here indicate that several Syrian parties have recently formed a front opposing the present regime. The newspaper AL-WATAN reports today that these parties include the Syrian Communist Party, Riyad at-Turk wing; the socialist union under Jamal at-Atasi; and Salah Jadid's group.

KUWAITI PAPER EXAMINES DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

LD261248 Kuwait KUNA in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 26 (KUNA)--The Soviet Union is determined to back Syria in its war against opposition forces and Israel, a local newspaper reported Wednesday. Quoting diplomatic sources in Beirut, AL-WATAN newspaper said a large-scale war of attrition may erupt on the Syrian front with Israel.

The sources said the Soviets will support President Hafiz al-Asad against any Israeli invasion aimed at changing the Damascus regime in favor of another one that would heed America's call for joining the Camp David agreements. About 12,000 Soviet experts are known to be in Syria to help Al-Asad face any movement to change his regime by "rightists and reactionary forces."

AL-WATAN added that four minor leftist parties had recently formed a front opposing the ruling Arab Ba'thist Party. These parties, the newspaper said, are a faction of the Syrian Communist Party headed by Riyad at-Turk, the Arab Socialist Party headed by Jamal al-'Atassi, and a group of the Ba'th Party supporting former President Salah Jadid who was overthrown in 1970.

The newspaper said that Syria might fire the first shot against Israel in an attempt to close ranks on the internal front. The sources added that Syria had informed the Palestinian resistance movement of its decision to open the Golan front for the Palestinian commandoes to launch raids against Israel. Syria had also sought Jordan's cooperation to foil any attempt by Israel to strike against the Syrian army making use of the vulnerable northern Jordanian region.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian leadership has affirmed its support for the Syrian regime and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced, following a four-hour meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus Tuesday, that the Palestinian revolution "is in the same trench with Syria in its war against conspiracies by the Camp David partners."

In another development, the Syrian Communist Party headed by Khalid Bakdash, has announced its solidarity with the Syrian regime. It called, following a series of meetings, for further struggle against "designs of the American imperialism" to dominate the Arab region. The party urged that measures be taken against American interests in the Arab world and that preparedness be strengthened "to confront any imperialist-Israeli-reactionary aggression against Syria and the Palestinian revolution."

The party statement also called for consolidating unity between Syria and the PLO and fostering bonds of cooperation with the Soviet Union. But it called at the same time for more freedom for the masses and their progressive forces and for adoption of an economic policy guaranteeing equality and democracy for all factions of the society.

'PRACTICAL STEPS' TAKEN TO RECTIFY FAULTS IN POLITICAL SYSTEM

JN240753 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 80 pp 1, 16 JN

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Beirut--Arrivals from Damascus have reported that more practical steps will be taken in Syria within the next few days to rectify the faults which engulfed the past state and to rectify the revolution's course. The arrivals added that these steps are aimed at consolidating national unity and democracy and at granting the people more freedoms. These steps are summed up in the following points:

1. To give more powers to Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm's government, powers not given to any previous government.

2. To dissolve the People's Assembly and some other democratic institutions, to hold new free elections with the participation of all the political forces and to deepen the masses' action.

3. To introduce changes in the government apparatus, including some governors. Recently, the governors of Damascus, Aleppo, Dir'a and Dayr az-Zawr were changed.

4. To deepen the role of the National Progressive Front, which includes the leftist parties in Syria, and to open the door for all the leftist forces, including the opposition forces, to join the front. Invitations have been extended to these forces.

AR-RA'Y has also learned that the parties which are members of this front, will be given more freedom, such as:

A. Freedom of movement.

B. Freedom to practice their activities in the universities and popular circles.

C. Freedom to open offices in all towns.

D. Giving the front's parties, particularly the communist party, freedom of information activities and to allow their own newspaper.

5. To reconsider the cultural, economic and political relations with the United States and also reconsider the agreements signed between Syria and U.S. companies.

6. To bring to account all officials accused of negligence and of harming the state's departments and establishments.

STEADFASTNESS FRONT SUMMIT TO CONVENE IN APRIL

JN271025 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Mar 80 p 1 JN

[Text] TISHRIN has learned that as a result of meetings and consultations among the members of the steadfastness and confrontation pan-Arab front, it has been agreed to convene the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit at the beginning of April. The last of these meetings and consultations were held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid during the latter's visit to Damascus. Consultations on the subject were also held yesterday [25 March] during the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO Executive Committee members who accompanied him.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER DISCUSSES MOROCCO DISPUTE, OTHER ISSUES

JN261107 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Mar 80 pp 12, 16 JN

["Text" of interview given by Dr Mohey Edden Omeimor, Algerian presidential adviser and FLN Central Committee member, to AR-RA'Y correspondent Salim al-Mu'ani on 25 March]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the reason behind your dispute with Morocco?

[Answer] Our dispute with Morocco is due to our viewpoints on the Western Sahara issue. This is the truth behind our dispute. Since our independence, our policy has been based on cooperation and good neighborliness.

I find it necessary to mention that when we began the revolution in Algeria, the Jordanian people supported us continuously. We know that our brothers in Jordan considered the Algerian revolution their revolution at that time. They expressed their full support for the revolution and its continuity and sympathized with us concerning the painful life which we experienced. This is an opportunity for us to greet the fraternal brothers in Jordan for all they did for the Algerian revolution and to express to them that the Algerian revolution is an asset for the Arabs and Muslims and that it has achieved glorious victory through defeating an enemy that was very hostile to Algeria.

It is true that we have begun a revolution in Algeria, but we do not believe in exporting revolutions to other countries. We have never intervened in the affairs of our neighboring countries or tried to impose our viewpoints on them, saying that this is right and this is wrong. Every one is free in his country.

[Question] What about allegations that Algerians were part of the group which attacked Qafsah?

[Answer] If you have names of brother Algerians who participated in the attack, please tell us about them. According to our knowledge, there are absolutely no Algerians in that group. We declared that no Algerian attempt was made to participate in the attack and we proved that.

After the As-Sukhayrat coup attempt in Morocco, we have never tried to intervene or create problems for our brothers in Morocco. On the contrary, we tried to implement our principles of cooperation and good neighborliness, because we believe that the creation of tension on our part will not help us at all. We believe in stability and peace but not in creating trouble.

[Question] It has been said that the recent change in the Mauritanian leadership and its withdrawal from the Sahara conflict will affect the Algerian-Saharan balance of power. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We would like to make it very clear that any internal Mauritanian change is a matter which concerns the Mauritanian people alone. Neither us nor any other person is entitled to comment on this change. The Mauritanian leadership has at last become convinced that the war is not the adequate means to achieve stability in the region.

[Question] The recent capitulatory moves by As-Sadat have proved that he is determined to forge ahead with his capitulatory moves, in your opinion, what is the alternative?

[Answer] Let me begin with the word "alternative." The word "alternative" has always been used as a trap in order to justify a wrong policy. There is not alternative for wrong. Since we think that you believe that you are closer to the field of battle than we Algerians, then you know better than we do that As-Sadat has chosen a road which will not achieve any solution. We believe that a blocked road will achieve nothing and that the recognition of the Zionist enemy will not solve the Middle East question. The problem in the Middle East lies in the fact that a nation has been driven out of its country and that their territory has been given to others. Thus, an alien body has been imposed on the Arab homeland by force and through circumstances which you know.

[Question] How valid is the steadfastness front following the bitter disputes and the rifts which have occurred until now?

[Answer] Every move to strengthen the Arab ranks is a step on the road of solidarity, which aborts all attempts to strike at the Palestine question. It is improper for us to talk about the disputes without prior study of these disputes. However, I believe that the internal differences, if there are such differences, are one thing and that unity against the enemy is another thing.

[Question] To what extent has Algeria gone in implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions, particularly the resolution on supporting the confrontation states?

[Answer] The Algerian position announced at the Baghdad summit conference and other conferences is well known. Algeria has fulfilled all its commitments.

It is not customary for Algeria to publicize what it does. It is not customary for Algeria to ask for a good conduct certificate from any party. We are very satisfied with what we do. In 1967, when the Arab world was facing trouble and before there were conferences, the Algerian warplanes led the Arab planes which came to protect the sky of Egypt. We have some people who died in the eastern part of the Arab homeland. This is well-known. We did not publicize this, nor did our press, because we believed that it was part of our duty and that the Palestine question is our cause.

We did the same thing in 1973. Algeria did not hesitate to adopt any position which its pan-Arab commitment calls for in the battle of destiny. But we did not announce this.

The brothers in Jordan have more information on the Algerian role in Arab steadfastness than the Algerian citizen himself. All we tell the Algerian people is that "we are doing our duty," and that is it. The Algerian people have confidence in their leadership and; thus, they trust it when it says that it has fulfilled its duty on any issue.

[Question] What is the Algerian position on the recent Iraqi charter?

[Answer] The Algerian press has adopted a clear stand on the Iraqi charter. We take into consideration every effort by any Arab leader to guarantee further Arab solidarity and cooperation and to offer further support for the Arab movement. We cannot but support such moves with all our power.

LIBYA

BAR ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS TUNISIAN QAFSAH TRIALS

LD231342 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Libyan bar association issued a statement yesterday in which it commented on the attacks launched by the Tunisian public prosecutor at the court trying the Qafsah revolutionaries. The statement reads:

The lawyers have followed some of the session of the Tunisian State Security Court through the Tunisian information media. In his address before the court, which is trying the Qafsah revolutionaries, the public prosecutor blamed Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the commander of the Great 1 September Revolution for this revolution and used them as a pretext to conduct acts of suppression, aimed at frightening the Tunisian people and distracting them from their chronic domestic problems.

The statement affirmed that the bar association in the Jamahiriyah wishes to assert that the Great 1 September Revolution and the Libyan Arab people are determined that no agent Tunisian regime should rise, one that is hostile to it and on its western borders. They are determined not to permit attempts to besiege them from the east by the apostate, agent and defeatist regime.

The collapsing Tunisian agent regime, the statement continued, as usual blames the Jamahiriyah for its internal problems and forcefully involves its name in any popular uprising by the oppressed Tunisian people, whose hands are fettered and who are exploited by the fascist terrorist clique whose only concern is to safeguard their temporary interests.

The Jamahiriyah bar association, the statement said, feels that the pleading of the Tunisian public prosecutor cannot be considered legal for he has gone along with the trumpet of Zionist and imperialist propaganda, which have constantly condemned the Jamahiriyah's national stands, intentionally disregarding the imperialist American invasion with a view to suppressing the revolution of the fraternal Tunisian people.

The bar association statement affirmed that the ruling clique in Tunisia, which honors no pledge or promise, as can be seen from its failure to implement the Jarbah historical statement, which was signed by the Tunisian head of state, cannot be dealt with nor can the resolutions recently adopted by the Arab League concerning it be recognized.

In conclusion, the bar association said that it believes that the Libyan people are called upon to work side by side with their brothers the Tunisian people to topple this agent regime, destroy it and prevent it from continuing in view of the danger it poses to the future of both fraternal peoples and the Arab nation. This must be initiated so that Tunisia will regain its Arab and Islamic shining face within the framework of an immediate merger based on direct democracy represented in the people's authority; for the people possess authority, wealth and arms.

WEAPONS TRAINING FOR CITIZENS BEGINS IN KHUMS

LD260922 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Khums, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--During the last two days the first batch of the militarisation units in Khums have been training in target practice and rocket launching. This constitutes the first stages in the practical training of this batch, a practical application of the dicta "the establishment of an armed people to defend their revolutionary gains realized under the revolution and to consolidate the people's authority". The batch who succeeded to hit all targets proved to be highly competent, thus reflecting their great capability in the use of sophisticated arms.

JANA DENIES DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST TUNISIA

LD261000 Tripoli JANA in English 0906 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY denied allegations fabricated by the Tunisian press that Libya had recently launched a defamation campaign against Tunisia. The editor affirmed that the media in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah had neither mentioned Tunisia nor launched any campaign against it in recent days. The Tunisian mass media claimed this, he added, in an attempt to find an excuse for starting propaganda against the Libyan Arab people.

FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES ZAMBIAN FINANCE MINISTER

LD262336 Tripoli JANA in English 1736 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Zambian finance minister praised the grand al-Fatah revolution and its leader's stand for the liberation of Africa from the colonialist yoke and racism. He also extolled the Libyan people's support to Zambia in its fight against racialist provocations and colonialist pressures. He equally lauded the grand al-Fatah revolution's efficient role in support of the Zimbabwean people's struggle which culminated in victory.

The Zambian minister who met foreign secretary, 'Ali at-Turayki, at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli paid tribute to the Libyan people for the gigantic achievements they have made in various fields. Furthermore he assured the foreign secretary of his country's consistent support for the Palestinian people's just cause and for the Western Sahara people in their endeavour for self-determination. The Zambian finance minister and the foreign secretary also dealt with bilateral relations and investigating ways of promoting them.

MOROCCO

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SUPPORTS HASSAN'S SAHARA POLICY

LD261301 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 18 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Everything Can Be Negotiated With Algeria Aside From Territorial Concessions"]

[Text] Mr 'Ali Yata, secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialist (Communist Party), held a press conference in Paris on Friday, 14 March. Speaking to a hall filled with young militants from the whole Paris region, he stressed two points in particular.

Mr Ali Yata stressed the importance of the communist party's return to legality in 1974 under its present name. Replying energetically to interruptions from the audience he maintained that this legalization offered the party new chances of increasing its influence; and, he stressed the number of members to be 40,000.

Second, with regard to the Sahara the secretary general again confirmed his determined support for His Majesty King Hassan II's policy and his efforts to achieve Morocco's territorial unification. Mr Ali Yata affirmed that everything can be negotiated with Algeria aside from territorial concessions and that Morocco's integrity should be defended by all means "including arms." This statement was greeted with applause from the audience.

Mr Ali Yata nonetheless said that he has confidence in a peaceful solution to the conflict which, in his view, is as ruinous for Algiers as for Rabat.

With regard to Afghanistan the secretary general fully justified the Soviet intervention maintaining that the Red Army is only in that country to defend the revolution against foreign interference.

LE MATIN CARRIES COMMUNIQUE ON IRAQI DELEGATION VISIT

LD261317 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 16 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Apparent text of statement published at the end of visit by Iraqi delegation to Morocco: "Morocco Reasserts Support for Inter-Arab Charter"]

[Text] Rabat, March, (MAP)--The following communique was published at the end of the visit to Morocco by an Iraqi delegation led by Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council:

At the invitation of Mr Maati Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister of the republic of Iraq, paid a visit to the kingdom of Morocco from 12 through 14 March as leader of a delegation comprising Mr Hikmat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council Economic Affairs Office; Mr Thamir Razuqi, finance minister; Dr 'Abd al-Amir 'Ali 'Imran, chairman of the Iraqi fund for external development; and several high officials and technical advisers.

During his visit, the first deputy prime minister was received by His Majesty King Hassan II to whom he conveyed greetings and best wishes from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

His majesty the king expressed his great gratitude and thanks for these fraternal feelings and asked the first deputy prime minister to convey his greetings and good wishes to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

During this visit the two delegations held several meetings in which participated Mr Maati Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister; Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mr Abdelkamel Reghai, finance minister; Mr Abdelhak Tazi, secretary of state for cooperation, and several high officials and technical advisers.

The two delegations discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all spheres. They also studied some Arab and international problems of common interest. The talks took place in an atmosphere of sincere fraternal feelings and complete understanding marked by a sense of communal responsibility and faith in the Arab nation's humane mission, the common future of its sons and the need to continue the struggle and to strive jointly with a view to restoring those rights of which Arabs have been deprived, recovering occupied territories and achieving Arab unity.

During their talks, the two delegations paid special attention to the Palestinian problem, which is seen as the keystone of the Arab struggle against Zionism, and the threat which Zionism poses to the future of the entire Arab nation in the military, political and economic spheres and in the sphere of civilization. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the principles sanctioned by the 7th Arab summit conference in Rabat and the 9th summit conference in Baghdad and restated at the 10th Arab summit in Tunis with respect to this vital problem. Furthermore, they undertook to pursue their efforts with a view to fully implementing the decisions adopted by the summit conferences.

The leader of the Iraqi delegation explained the circumstances which had led to the proclamation of an inter-Arab charter by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and its motivations and objectives, while paying special attention to the present international situation and the grave threats which recent developments are likely to pose to the sovereignty and security of the Arab nation, especially in view of the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Zionist state.

The leader of the Moroccan delegation expressed Morocco's esteem and reaffirmed his country's support for the charter.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction with the fact that they both belong to the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization and the nonalined movement. They reaffirmed their commitment to the principles upheld by these organizations and restated their desire to continue to strive in support of the implementation of their objectives. On behalf of the other members of his delegation and on his own behalf, the leader of the Iraqi delegation expressed sincere thanks for the cordial welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegation during its visit to this fraternal country.

The prime minister and justice minister accepted the first deputy prime minister's invitation to pay a visit to Iraq. The date of the visit is to be agreed on later.

KING HASSAN SENDS MESSAGE TO WORLD MUSLIM CONGRESS

TA270555 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0415 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Hassan II, king of Morocco, has sent a message to the eighth session of the World Muslim Congress being held in Gazimagosa [Fumagusta] extending his wishes for its success. The king pointed out in his message that it was of great value that the problems of Islam, peace and humanity were being assessed at the congress in Famagusta at a time when hostility was growing both in the Islamic world and in the entire world. He added that he was very pleased that wise men had gathered at that meeting and were expressing their views. He expressed the belief that this would strengthen the Islamic religion.

GENERAL DLIMI CLAIMS POLISARIO HAVE SOVIET-MADE MISSILES

LD261605 Paris L'AURORE in French 24 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Jean-Marc Kalfleche dispatch: "Firm Warning by Morocco to Libya"]

[Excerpt] Marakesh--Following a long interview, Morocco's General Dlimi authorized me to publish the following warning aimed at Tripoli and--probably--Algeria, where the present authorities do not seem to be in full control of the situation: "The POLISARIO has received extraordinarily accurate surface-to-surface missiles of Soviet origin. We know that people alien to the region operate them in the Algerian sanctuary. I want to state that if even one of these missiles is launched against the Moroccan forces, the interests of Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya will be attacked everywhere--in Libya itself and throughout the world. I am stating this and I will keep my word. I am saying this formally because I possess the necessary means to do it." There can be no doubt that Dlimi would not have said this without the king's approval.

Morocco is threatened from two directions: By these missiles and by the "active complicity" of the Nouakchott government which has apparently allowed the POLISARIO to recruit 7,000 combatants in Mauritania's northern region. However, Morocco also has resources that may cause surprise. First, the nationalism of its people throughout the social scale. And, second, its role in the Near East--Iraq and Saudi Arabia have united their efforts to assist Morocco. Very surprising things could even happen in the military sphere in the coming month. Hassan has decided not to attack Algeria. This is a handicap for his army. On the other hand, Chadli believes that Morocco must not be interfered with at the Algerian level, and this is a handicap for the POLISARIO. The majority of the Arab League members have already made up their mind. In the present situation, this majority is of greater importance than either the OAU or the UN majorities.

PRC ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN RABAT

LD262320 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Chen Muhua, vice premier and minister of economic relations with foreign countries in the People's Republic of China, arrived in Morocco a short while ago on an 8-day official visit to our country. At the airport she was met by prime minister and minister of justice, Maata Bouabid and by members of the honorary committee comprising Mohamed Haddou Echiguer, minister of relations with parliament; Abderrahim Harkett, Moroccan ambassador to China; Abd El Hamid Bannani Sueris, secretary general of the ministry of commerce and industry; Mohamed Bighdis, diplomatic adviser to the prime minister; and Umar Bin Shaqrun, chief of protocol (?and secretary) of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Members of the Chinese delegation accompanying Chen Muhua, vice premier of the PRC state council comprised: (Heng Sing), vice minister for foreign affairs; Cheng Fei, vice minister for economic relations with foreign countries; Mi Yung, PRC ambassador to Morocco; (Mizeng Cho), deputy director of West Asian and North African Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry; (Zu Hei Yong), head of a branch of the West Asian and North African Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry; (Dien Gyeng), secretary for (Heng Sing), vice minister for foreign affairs; and (Sodai Gi), assistant head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

SUDAN

SENEGALESE ENVOY CONVEYS MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI

JN261433 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak today received the special envoy of Sudanese President Leopold Senghor, who conveyed to him a message for President Ja'far Numayri from the Senegalese president. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations, ways of bolstering these relations and some issues of mutual interest. The Senegalese president's special envoy arrived in Khartoum the day before yesterday.

TUNISIA

SENEGALESE ENVOY DEPARTS TUNIS AFTER 2-DAY VISIT

LD221500 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] Tunis--The Senegalese foreign minister and private envoy of President Leopold Senghor to President Habib Bourguiba, Moustapha Niasse, left Tunis this morning after a 2-day visit.

EDUCATION MINISTER, GAMBIAN PRESIDENT HOLD TALKS

LD261800 Tunis TAP in English 1645 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, March 26 (TAP)--The Gambia's President Dawda Jawara's official visit which started last Monday is going on. Both countries' delegations headed by President Jawara and Mr Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian education minister charged with coordinating government activities, met Tuesday for a working session during which they discussed the possibility of starting projects of cooperation in the economic field. Faithful to the spirit of African solidarity and anxious to establish a fruitful cooperation between both countries, Tunisia will allow the Gambia to profit by its experience in various fields.

Both delegations examined also Arab-African cooperation and means to extend it as well as means to ensure success for the next African economic summit due to be held in Lagos at the end of next April.

Finally, the Tunisian and Gambian delegations discussed the international political situation and the current problems in Africa and in the Near East. This large survey of international politics allowed to bring out a great concordance of views.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AT HOME WITH EYE INFECTION

TA270924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has an eye inflammation and is spending the day at home. Our correspondent reports that Mr Begin is continuing with his work at home.

TAMIR SAYS COURTS WILL NOT DISMANTLE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA261611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir says that he and other jurists in his ministry believe that there is no fear of a court ordering the uprooting of a Jewish settlement from Judaea and Samaria. In a conversation with leaders of the Jewish local councils in Judaea and Samaria, who are on a hunger strike, he said that while he opposes retroactive legislation, if there is any danger he will not hesitate to initiate such legislation on the issue of Judaea and Samaria.

He also said that the issue of Jewish settlement will be resolved politically and, at any rate, he is not prepared to make any promises about legislation.

DPA INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER ON MIDEAST PEACE

LD262030 Hamburg DPA in German 1843 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Jerusalem--In an interview with DPA today, which is the anniversary of the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the new Israeli foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, said: "Israel is firmly resolved to continue the current negotiations for a Middle East settlement until all problems are resolved so that there can be lasting peace in the region. The "positive experience with Egypt and the progress in normalizing relations" over the past year have created a framework "which is necessary for the development of peace and friendship between both states and peoples."

Shamir will be visiting Egypt for the first time tomorrow as part of the autonomy talks. In his view, the Egyptian leaders are interested in strengthening and widening peace with Israel. There is every reason to hope for a positive and serious development of cooperation which will augur well for the Middle East. In this connection he said that 26 March--in Israel's view a "desirable date," in Egypt's view a "firm date" for the conclusion of the autonomy talks--is not "sacrosanct". If no agreement is reached by then, Israel will continue the negotiations until they are brought to a successful conclusion.

On Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, he said: "We have no special panacea to convince world opinion that we are right." Israel is trying to "explain its settlement policy to the world by simple reliance on the facts and the truth." He criticized the opponents of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories whom, he said, want to "push Israel back to the 1949 cease-fire lines. No country has recognized these lines as Israel's borders. We could not survive within these lines. Our enemies would always be tempted to wage war on Israel."

The issue at the peace negotiations regarding the establishment of settlements is "a dispute about the future definitive borders of the Jewish state." The 1949 lines were "Auschwitz borders." The settlements are not being established in order "to defy the Arabs or the world at large."

Shamir refused to deal with questions about the ultimate future of the occupied territories. "Under the Camp David agreement, this topic will be put on the negotiating table 5 years after the introduction of autonomy, so I do not wish to discuss my ideas until then."

Shamir accused the PLO of seeking to mislead the Western world. In this view, statements by PLO leaders have not been read sufficiently thoroughly in the West. "The PLO has not amended its convention, which calls for the destruction of Israel. If the terrorists do not want to destroy Israel, why do they not say so?" he asked. Like most Israeli politicians he believes that the Arab Palestinian people already have a homeland, "the state of Jordan." While it is called Jordan, it is in every respect, demographically, culturally and geographically, a Palestinian state."

In view of the "somber past" in the history of the Jewish and German peoples, he said he expects "special understanding" from the FRG Government for Israel's problems of security and existence. "Even after 30 years it should be said that Germany has a special moral obligation to the State of Israel because this state arose from the ashes of Jews who were murdered and incinerated."

He considers relations between Jerusalem and Bonn to be "very important." He refused to agree with the assessment of his predecessor, Dayan, who had referred to a deterioration in the FRG Government's attitude toward Israel after his visit to Bonn. If there are differences, "direct contacts" at a high level are the best way to resolve them. He would not comment on the question of a visit to Israel by Federal Chancellor Schmidt or the reasons for the long delay of this visit.

REASONS FOR LINOWITZ'S FAILURE IN ISRAEL NOTED

TA261251 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 80 p 3 TA

[By political commentator Erol Guiney]

[Text] Whatever may be said, there is no doubt that Ambassador Sol Linowitz's mission in Israel has ended in complete failure. Begin did not retreat from any of his positions despite earlier hopes that the prime minister might encourage the U.S. representative, who is definitely the most experienced and sympathetic representative Israel could have expected.

Was it really impossible to put a freeze on the establishment of new settlements until 26 May at a time when France and other European countries are eagerly awaiting the failure of the autonomy talks by that date in order to submit a new proposal--to replace Resolution 242--to the Security Council and to move the negotiations under UN sponsorship? After all, a 3-month freeze has already been decided upon once and at its end the establishment of settlements resumed.

Was it really illogical to ask Israel to define its security needs when every move we make is done for the sake of security (although certain ministers think otherwise)? Even Minister Burg seems more flexible on this this issue than the prime minister. A foreign observer noted last night: The less support he receives, the more he stiffens his positions.

Begin has apparently been encouraged by the U.S. administration's retreat following the latest vote in the Security Council and the position of U.S. Jewry in the primaries. However, it is doubtful whether this will be of any benefit after the elections in the United States. If a solution is feasible, then it would be better to negotiate it before November and not afterwards.

There is only one explanation for Begin's attitude in his talks with Sol Linowitz: If concessions are needed in order to continue the talks even after 26 May, then it is better to make them to President Carter in Washington rather than to make them now to his ambassador. The reason for this is that, even if we give up things now, Carter will demand further concessions and we will have nothing to offer. Let us hope that this is the right explanation....

Perhaps this is the time to quote certain remarks made by some of our friends in the wake of rallies similar to that held in Hebron following the Cabinet's decision to build a yeshiva in the city: "One gets the impression that certain circles in Israel are deliberately provoking the Palestinians in order to be able to say afterwards: How could we possibly give up any part of Judaea and Samaria under our control". This may not be the right explanation. However it is the impression gained by many people in the world.

RADIO REPORTS DESERTIONS BY SOVIET TROOPS

TA261321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, several soldiers from the Muslim minorities deserted and crossed over to the side of the Afghan rebels. This was reported by a traveler who came to New Delhi from Afghanistan. In a talk with several of the deserters in a rebel camp in the Badakhshan area, they told the traveler that their commanders had misled them. Their commanders had told them that they had come to Afghanistan in order to drive away U.S., Chinese and Pakistani invaders.

In a similar vein, several of the stars of Afghanistan's football team have escaped from their country and requested political asylum in West Germany. The Afghan team toured the Soviet Union and a group of bachelor players took advantage of the opportunity and deserted to the West.

MA'ARIV REVIEWS AS-SADAT'S RECENT MOVES

TA261548 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 80 p 5 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Begin's Reply to As-Sadat"]

[Text] At this week's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Menahem Begin read to the Cabinet members the message sent to him by President as-Sadat in which the Egyptian president concludes that the freeze in the autonomy talks and the danger of the political initiative being retrieved from Egypt, Israel and the United States and handed over to "other elements in the United Nations" were to be blamed on Israel.

Begin read As-Sadat's message in its original English version. The ministers did not analyze its details and did not submit their opinions on it. After having read the official document, the prime minister told the Cabinet members about the contents of several lines written on its margins in Hebrew. Those were the remarks of Ambassador Ben-Elisar as he heard them from Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak. When handing over the message to Israel, the vice president saw fit to remark--Ben-Elisar notes--that the president wanted to avoid any misunderstanding. The president said--so disclosed Mubarak--that he had begun the peace process with Begin and that he also wanted to complete it with him!...[ellipses as received]

This is a rather odd remark. First of all, if this is As-Sadat's sincere view, then why did he not include it in his personal message to "my friend Menahem" instead of using the services of his subordinate Mubarak in this respect?

Second, why did the president deem fit to violate secret diplomacy and turn the very handling of a personal message into a public ceremony attended by all members of the media and the television cameras and putting the Israeli ambassador in an embarrassing position in front of the camera flashes without being aware of what it was all about? Since when has correspondence between heads of state turned into such an odd and dramatic spectacle?

Therefore, no particular weight should be attached to the remark that he started the peace negotiations with Begin and he wanted to complete them with him...[ellipses as received]

Judging by the attitude adopted by As-Sadat--and, even more so, the background music accompanying his move through the renewed attacks on the prime minister by Egyptian media which broke into a "song of joy" conducted by some mysterious baton--one could have gained the opposite impression, that is, that apparently As-Sadat no longer particularly believes in finalizing matters with Menahem Begin in the wake of the crossroads the autonomy talks have reached. Judging by the contents, chances for it are even less.

Suddenly, As-Sadat makes a demand to establish a "committee for security affairs" on a ministerial level. The committee will be a joint Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. institution which will "unanimously"--as he put it in his message to Begin--discuss and determine matters pertaining to security, including the deployment of the IDF forces which, according to the Camp David accords, would have to withdraw to defined locations.

According to the Israeli position--which was endlessly reiterated by Begin, Dayan and Weizman during the Camp David talks--the IDF's new deployment after its withdrawal from its present positions will be determined by the security needs formulated by the IDF's general staff and security elements. Israel will not agree to resort to Egyptian and U.S. unanimity on this issue.

This was the bone of contention at the Linowitz talks this week and the scale tipped toward the Egyptian side.

The ministerial committee on autonomy affairs together with the prime minister convened yesterday to examine Minister Yosef Burg's proposal to agree to the establishment of a committee for security affairs on the condition that the committee will handle issues which will in the future be under the responsibility of the local "strong" police which must be established in the autonomy as provided by the Camp David accords. One of the ministers argued with Dr Burg that it would be better to cast off such a proposal since it would lead to a self-entrapment. At that stage, after the prime minister also rejected the proposal, it was decided that the time was not yet ripe for any sort of discussion by a ministerial committee on security affairs.

What lies behind this argument and why is As-Sadat interested in raising the "security committee" subject?

As-Sadat wants to exploit some cracks in a part of the Camp David accords stating: "The parties will negotiate an agreement which will define the authority and responsibilities of the self-administration authorities which will be effective in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. A withdrawal of Israeli armed forces will take place and there will be a redeployment of the Israeli forces which will remain in security areas to be specified. The agreement will also include arrangements for insuring internal and external security, public order, etc." Hence, As-Sadat claims that the accords call for the issue of the deployment of the Israeli forces to be decided upon unanimously since nowhere in the document does it say that this is an issue to be exclusively handled by Israel.

If As-Sadat succeeds, if only partially, on this issue as well as on the second issue--presently being the main point of dispute (and on this issue, too, the United States is on Egypt's side)--namely, the legislative council, then he would have laid a rather solid foundation for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This is what the argument is all about. This is the reason for the Egyptian and U.S. objection to the settlements. Actually, Egypt and the United States do not want to make a decision right now on all the issues which, according to the Camp David accords, will have to be discussed only after 5 years (from the date of the implementation of the autonomy). Definitely, an issue such as that of the legislative council is relevant to the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. If the autonomy were granted legislative authority now, it would be given access to the keys of sovereignty.

Linowitz left and the issues discussed for 3 consecutive days with Begin remained. Obviously, the main topic of the prime minister's talks in the White House next month will be; Carter has insistently declared his opposition to a Palestinian state. The prime minister will ask the president about the practical significance of his declaration.

This is the most practical question. The Linowitz talks preceding the Carter talks did not carry good tidings; all the concessions Linowitz asked the prime minister to make "coincidentally" fitted in with...As-Sadat's demands as spelled out in his message to Begin. If realized, these demands will constitute a proven recipe for a future Palestinian state, or, in fact, "a Palestinian state now."

JERUSALEM RADIO REPORTS ON WEST BANK STRIKE

TA251206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpts] In spite of the boycott the inhabitants of Hebron discussed last night, most of the Arab workers went to work as normal. Our correspondent Arye Gus has gone to Hebron and he is broadcasting to us from there:

There is a tangible mood of depression in Hebron today. The general strike is complete. There are no school classes, no transport and all the shops, with a few isolated exceptions, are closed. The streets are almost empty of people and sometimes one can see an IDF patrol. Most of the inhabitants have opted to shut themselves in their homes. However, salesmen are offering their wares to tourists at the Makhpelah Cave and people from Qiryat Arba', who work in the restaurant, say that they have toured the town and spoken with their acquaintances just as they do every day. Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi comments with pride on the strike in the town, but he is forced to admit that the strike is not, from his viewpoint, complete.

[Gus] There is no doubt, Al-Qawasimi said, that I cannot shut people's mouths, but we can decrease the extent of the cooperation. Many people also do not know about the decision made, Al-Qawasimi said. However, in the end I am certain that we will achieve our aims. The Hebron mayor is aware of the fierce, hard impression created by the remarks he made in Hebron yesterday at the municipality's meeting but, he said, it was not us who declared war. Those who want to expel us from our lands, they are the ones who declared war on us. The boycott declared, the mayor stressed, is only against the inhabitants of Qiryat Arba', foreigners in our midst. He is prepared to cooperate with the rest of the inhabitants of Israel, on the condition that they support the rights of the Palestinian people.

It turns out that life is more powerful than politics. In spite of the declaration of the boycott, most of the Arab workers employed in the settlement arrived in Qiryat Arba'.

The inhabitants of Qiryat Arba' are not too upset about the boycott. One or 2 days, they say, and it will all pass. If, nevertheless, they still come up against a boycott, there are some who are threatening to react. The strike in Hebron will end today, but the members of the Municipality Council are threatening to take other steps. What can they do other than resign, I asked the mayor, and he replied: You will find out. That's all from Arye Gus, Hebron.

NABULUS LEADER DISCLOSES APPEAL TO UNITED STATES

TA261019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] One of the leaders of Nabulus says that he has appealed to the United States to manage the territories itself as a step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state. This was said by Hikmet al-Masri, who was once the mayor of Nabulus, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS. He said he appealed on this matter to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Donald McHenry when he recently visited the area. He thinks that a U.S. administration in the territories for an interim period would be a sort of a test of the sincerity of the Palestinians who are demanding a state. Al-Masri added that the Palestinians would not oppose negotiations between Israel and Jordan on the evacuation of the territories.

GAZA MUNICIPALITY CALLS FOR LAND DAY STRIKE

TA261229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Gaza Municipality is calling on its inhabitants to stage a 2-hour general strike on Sunday, from 0800-1000, to mark Land Day. An announcement issued by the municipality says that Gaza is an inseparable part of the Arab land and the problem of the requisitioning of lands belonging to the Arabs of Galilee is also its problem. Our correspondent recalls that 2 weeks ago the municipality called on its inhabitants to hold a general strike to protest the normalization between Israel and Egypt, but the inhabitants did not respond.

WEST BANK MAYORS SUPPORT AL-QAWASIMI

TA261327 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The West Bank is quiet today, with stores and businesses open as usual. This follows yesterday's commercial strike in protest at the Cabinet's decision to open a yeshiva and a field school in Hebron. But beneath the surface the hostility continues between the Israeli authorities and the West Bank municipal leaders. West Bank mayors are threatening to resign if the Hebron mayor steps down over the issue. Following the situation is reporter Jerry Cheslow.

[Cheslow] Sources in the West Bank military government say that, for now, Governor Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will not go beyong the stern warning he delivered to Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi yesterday. Ben-Eli'ezer made it clear that Israel would not tolerate statements similar to the ones he made comparing Zionism and Nazism. Ben-Eli'ezer told Al-Qawasimi that his remarks at the mass protest meeting in Hebron on Monday were incitement.

What, then, are the options open to the military government? The most serious are deportation, trial and imprisonment, or removing Al-Qawasimi from his post, but a number of key personalities on the West Bank, who would not be quoted by name, said that they didn't really take the warning to Al-Qawasimi seriously because the military government had earlier issued an even sterner warning to Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, ordering him not to engage in political activity, and that warning had gone unheeded.

At the time of the Saloma killing in Hebron several months ago, Mayor al-Qawasimi was called in for a similar talk. Al-Qawasimi himself refused to comment on the warning, and sources in the military government agreed that it was a problem, but one that would have to be taken up on a very high level. On the West Bank, the mayors who are members of the National Guidance Committee say they will resign if Hebron's mayor steps down over the government decision. A key member of the committee, Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim, also said that the group which met in East Jerusalem last night would back any other action taken by Hebron against the decision to establish a yeshiva and a field school in the city. Several other West Bank mayors, including Ilyas Frayj of Bethlehem, have already said that they, too, will step down in such a case.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT BANS HEBRON RALLY AGAINST SETTLEMENT

TA261322 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] In Hebron the military government has banned a meeting to protest the Cabinet decision to establish two Jewish institutions in the town. Functionaries from trade unions were due to speak at the rally.

COALITION CHANGES MEMBERS IN KNESSET COMMITTEE FOR HEBRON VOTE

TA261714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Coalition has changed several of its members in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee prior to tomorrow's debate on the Cabinet's decision on Hebron. However, it has announced that it will not impose coalition discipline on its members. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli reports that MK Amnon Lin will be replaced in accordance with a La'am faction decision because he was not prepared to commit hemself to support the government's decision. In a statement that he issued he said that it is our right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el but we have to ask the questions--where, how and when.

Zalman Shoval, who opposes the decision, will participate in tomorrow's committee deliberations but, according to him, he will be replaced later on because of a trip abroad. Avraham Katz, who opposes the decision, is presently abroad and has been replaced. A Likud Knesset member will also replace the Agudat Yisra'el representative, Ya'aqov Gross, who said that he fears his faction will tell him to vote against the government.

Representatives of the opposition and the Democratic Movement are demanding that Chairman Moshe Arens promise to hold a vote tomorrow. However, he told our correspondent that he will reject their demand.

AFGHANISTAN

600 GOVERNMENT TROOPS JOIN MUSLIM GUERRILLAS

OW262138 Hong Kong AFP in English 2117 GMT 26 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 26 (AFP)--Two complete army units totalling 600 soldiers have deserted Afghan Government forces near the town of Qandahar in southern Afghanistan and have joined the Moslem guerrillas, a spokesman for the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan said here today. He said the desertion of March 18 included officers and soldiers, who brought their weapons.

The mass desertion took place during a general strike in the town, he added. He said merchants and other workers observed the strike.

Although travelers have described Qandahar as calm, the rebels said they have mounted urban guerrilla attacks there, killing 400 government soldiers and communist party members since the pro-Soviet coup last December. Rebels also said that the shelling of fleeing refugees in the Konarha region in northeastern Afghanistan has resumed and that civilians have been killed. They added that two Soviet armor and air attacks at Gandjigul and Kunar were repelled by the guerrillas. Soviet troops suffered heavy losses and lost two tanks in mine explosions, they said.

The Hezb-e Eslami rebel group confirmed that there was a rebel attack on March 20 against the Kunduz Prison and airport in northern Afghanistan. It said that 1,200 prisoners were freed after the guerrillas blew up the prison wall.

In northern Afghanistan, rebels destroyed three Soviet tanks and killed three soldiers, the group added.

FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR 28 MARCH

LD261820 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform:

Following a previous report regarding the celebrations of Farmers Day and the traditional New Year's festival, it is hereby brought to the notice of the toiling farmers, all participating offices and institutions, and the inhabitants of Kabul that it was hoped to hold the Farmers Day and New Year's Day festivities on 21 March in the national sports stadium.

But owing to the adverse weather conditions and the presence of precipitation, which would have troubled the audience, and also owing to difficulties in moving heavy machinery in the agricultural parade, the celebrations were postponed.

On the basis of a decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, weather conditions permitting, the celebration of this day has been planned for Friday 28 March to commence at 0900 at the national sports stadium, in the course of grandeur celebrations.

The aforementioned is brought to the notice of respected inhabitants and participating institutions and guests so they will be aware of the details. Entrance for those taking part in the Kabul sports stadium celebrations is free.

RADIO, TV COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DPRK

GF261825 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 80 GF

[Text] A radio and television cooperation agreement was concluded between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the DPRK at the Information and Culture Ministry's conference hall today.

The agreement was signed for Afghanistan by Information and Culture Minister 'Abdol Majid Sarboland and for the DPRK by the DPRK ambassador in Kabul, Yi Chong-nim. Documents pertaining to the agreement were exchanged.

BANGLADESH

PROTEST LODGED OVER INCREASE IN SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES

BK270506 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest with the conference lines against their proposed revision of freight structures and requested the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission to intervene in the matter. The protest was made following the notification of the Bangladesh-India Freight Conference Bureau to increase freight rates by 17 percent for both way general cargo from the 10th of next month. Reports say due to this upward revision Bangladesh exports to the United States will be badly affected and the goods consigned to the U.S. ports on an FOB basis will be adversely affected.

The bureau, in its last meeting in New York, is reported to have notified the revised freight structure for approval of the United States Federal Maritime Commission.

PRIME MINISTER WARNS AGAINST POLITICAL MACHINATIONS

BK261721 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpt] The Bangladesh Nationalist Party held a discussion meeting at the Ramna Green in Dacca this afternoon in observance of the [Independence] Day. Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman warned that machination of any political party to grab power through international conspiracy or by unleashing terrorism and anarchism in the country will be resisted by the people.

The prime minister said politics of weapons, politics of terrorism, threat of staging Afghan-style revolution and international conspiracy to undermine the country's sovereignty would be unsuccessful in Bangladesh. The nation is ready to resist such forces, he added.

INDIA

RAO NO CLEAR SOLUTION POSSIBLE TO AFGHAN CRISIS

BK270657 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government holds the view that no clear solution as yet appears possible to the Afghanistan problem. However, the principles enunciated in the India-French declaration [issued in connection with French President Giscard's Delhi visit] provide the basis along which the solution can possibly emerge. This was stated by external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in the Lok Sabha today.

In reply to a question, he said the Soviet Union has assured India that it will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan as soon as it is clear that there will be no further external threat.

CONCERN EXPRESSED AT MILITARY BUILD-UP IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK270808 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government has expressed concern over the move of the United States, Austriala and New Zealand to increase their military activity in the Indian Ocean. Speaking during the question time in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister said that the government has made known its views on the matter to these countries.

Mr Narasimha Rao said that it is regrettable that despite India's earnest desire to see that the Indian Ocean becomes a zone of peace, there has been a continuing escalation in the military presence of the superpowers in this area.

RAO STATEMENT ON PLO RECOGNITION, 'ARAFAT VISIT

BK261400 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao made the following statement in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on March 20 [date as received] 1980 announcing that India is according full diplomatic recognition to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the organisation is visiting India on 28 March.

The house will be happy to know that the Government of India has decided to accord full diplomatic status to the office of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in New Delhi.

India was amongst the very first countries outside the Arab world to recognise the PLO and to permit them to establish their office in New Delhi [in] 1975.

Over the years, not only by words but also by deeds, the people of India have demonstrated their sympathy, affection and brotherly feelings for the Palestinian people. It is appropriate to recall that it was Mahatma Gandhi who first roused the conscience of the world by bringing the Palestinian problem to the attention of the international community.

India has all along supported the Palestinian cause in the United Nations and, indeed, in every international forum. Granting full diplomatic status to the PLO, therefore, is but another logical step. We continue to maintain that no comprehensive settlement of the west Asian problem is possible without involvement of the PLO as an equal partner in negotiations. That alone can bring about lasting peace. The inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including their right to a national state, must be fully restored.

Sir, may I also take this opportunity to announce that the prime minister has invited Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, to pay us an official and friendly visit. He will be arriving in New Delhi on the 28th of this month for a 2-day stay.

As the house knows, 'Arafat has earned the respect and admiration not only of the Arab people but also of all freedom-loving peoples. This will be his first visit to India. We expect that Chairman 'Arafat's visit to this country symbolises not merely India-Palestinian friendship but also India-Arab solidarity.

RAO FETES BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN DELHI

BK270340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has reaffirmed that countries must resolve their bilateral problems through peaceful means to preserve world peace. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov in New Delhi.

Referring to the tension in the region, Mr Narasimha Rao said it is a development that cannot contribute to a peaceful environment. The countries in Southwest Asia should, therefore, try to find a solution to any problem within the nonalined framework.

He described Mr Mladenov's visit as a landmark in the development of India-Bulgarian friendship and many-sided cooperation.

In his reply, the Bulgarian foreign minister spoke warmly of India's foreign policy and its contribution to the consolidation of peace, security and understanding amongst nations.

TRADE TALKS WITH PAKISTAN OPEN IN DELHI

BK261511 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1441 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] An expert level review of India-Pakistan trade relations is currently taking place in New Delhi. These discussions which are scheduled to conclude on March 28, 1980 are part of an on-going dialogue with Pakistan and of an exploratory nature, at which matters of mutual interest concerning bilateral trade would be discussed.

A 3-member Pakistani delegation led by Muzaffar Ahmed, joint secretary, is participating in the current round of discussions. The Indian delegation is led by N. Dayal, director in the Ministry of Commerce.

The last round of expert level trade talks was held at Islamabad in September 1979. India's exports to Pakistan were rupees 421.5 million in 1977-78 and rupees 194.5 million in 1978-79.

USSR TO SHIP HEAVY WATER FOR ATMOIC POWER STATIONS

BK261611 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Mar 80 p 1 BK

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (UNI)--India will soon start receiving heavy water from the Soviet Union, according to authoritative sources here. The two countries have concluded an agreement under which the Soviet Union would provide India 250 tonnes of heavy water in any of its atomic power plants. It is primarily earmarked for the Rajasthan atomic power station. The new contract was signed by Indian Atomic Energy Department and Soviet "Tekhsnabexport."

CONGRESS-I MEMBER DEMANDS RECALL OF U.S. AMBASSADOR GOHEEN

BK270305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A demand for the immediate recall of U.S. ambassador to India Mr Robert Goheen was made in the Rajya Sasha yesterday by a Congress-I member Mr G.C. Bhattacharjee. In a special mention, the member said that Mr Goheen has violated all diplomatic norms in making certain remarks against Mrs Indira Gandhi to the Saudi Arabian ambassador who had invited her to a dinner.

GANDHI SPEAKS ON ASSAM AT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

BK261318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has underlined the dangerous potential of the Assam agitation and warned that apart from causing hardship to people it would pose a threat to the fabric of national unity. She accused the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] of encouraging the agitation and in giving it full support. Mrs Gandhi was intervening during the discussion on a calling-attention motion in the Lok Sabha on the economic blockade of Assam and West Bengal.

Making it clear that she did not approve of the blockade, the prime minister however said it was a reaction to the Assam developments. Even the chief minister had said it was for a just cause. An atmosphere of apprehension had been created all over West Bengal by the happenings in Assam. Her partymen had only given expression to these strong feelings. But their agitation was only temporary and it caused no harm. On the other hand, the Assam agitation itself has deprived the country of diesel and kerosene and farmers have been particularly hit. If this is not a blockade, what is it? she asked.

Mrs Gandhi said that the root of the problem is in Assam and the question has to be tackled there. While moving the calling-attention motion, Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan, Congress-U, accused the ruling party of striking at the roots of national unity and trying to engineer instability in the whole region. This brought forth a sharp reaction from the prime minister, who expressed astonishment over the member trying to lecture to her on national unity. Acrimonious and noisy exchanges between the ruling and opposition sides followed, plunging the house into near pandemonium for a while.

Mr Indrajit Gupta, Communist Party of India, alleged that the center was creating a law and order problem in the state andattempts were also being made to go back on 1971 as the breakoff point. Minister of state for home affairs Mr Makwana refuted the charges and said there is no proposal to shift the breakoff point. Other sponsors of the calling-attention motion were Mr Ram Bilas Paswan and Mr Chandrapal Chalani, both Lok Dal.

Views Pakistani, Indian Nuclear Plans

BK270815 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister told the Rajya Sabha that various programs of the enrichment of uranium are going on in the country and there is no need to create a stir because of reports of Pakistan acquiring capability to produce weapons-grade uranium. Allaying the apprehensions of members, Mrs Gandhi said: General preparation to strengthen the defense of the country is a continuing process and, therefore, there is no reason to have a sense of insecurity.

Mr K.C. Pant, Congress-U, and Mr B.P. Maurya, independent, wanted to know whether the government has protested to those countries who are assisting Pakistan in its nuclear program. Mrs Gandhi said that she is aware of press reports in this regard, but they need not necessarily be true. However, the government has no definite information on this.

Nuclear Plant Leaks Minor

BK260942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has assured the Lok Sabha that the recent leaks in the Tarapore nuclear power plant were of a minor nature and have caused no radioactive contamination. No evacuation has taken place of the people living in the neighborhood and hospital checks have shown none of the workers had any adverse effects.

The prime minister was intervening during question time in the house. In reply to another supplementary, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that scientists had felt denigrated during the Janata rule. She said we are trying to rebuild the morale of our scientists.

Replying to several questions, the prime minister said power generation at Tarapore has been reduced because of irregular and delayed supply of enriched uranium from the United States. Replying to Mr A.K. Roy, independent, Mrs Gandhi said in 1976 the plant generated 3,000 million units of power. This came down to nearly 2,000 million units last year.

Answering a question by Mr Uttam Rao Patil, Congress-I, the prime minister said the government remains committed to its policy of utilizing atomic energy for peaceful purposes which include peaceful nuclear experiments. In reply to the main question on the pipe leak by Mr Satish Aggarwal, Janata, Minister of State for Defense C.P.N. Singh said these leaks were discovered during the routine checkup when the reactor was shut down. Such leaks are common in other parts of the world and they pose no danger even if the plant is in operation. He said strict safety measures are being followed and there is no threat to the people of the area.

Space Program, Cooperation With USSR

BK270816 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The main thrust of the Indian space program is to develop an (?instrument) for practical benefits to the country's economy in the near future. In a written answer in the Rajya Sabha, Mrs Gandhi said these include telecommunications, direct TV broadcasts, remote sensing for monitoring and managing natural resources and meteorology. The prime minister said the government does not propose to send an Indian to the moon.

In another reply, Mrs Gandhi said that the Soviet Union has indicated the possibility of flying an Indian cosmonaut in space. No details have been worked out.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OFFICIAL ARRIVES 26 MAR

BK261608 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Mar (AFP)--Commonwealth Secretary General S. Ramphal today called upon India to invigorate the nonaligned movement on the Afghan crisis. He told reporters on his arrival here for a four-day visit that he would discuss with Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi the developments in Afghanistan. Mr Ramphal was greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao.

He evaded a question whether he envisaged any initiative at the Commonwealth level on the Afghan problem, saying that he would first like to have talks with Mrs Gandhi. "We need to keep cool heads and act with restraint," Mr Ramphal said. He said he would also discuss with Mrs Gandhi and Mr Rao many matters of concern to the Commonwealth, India and the other world affairs.

PAKISTAN

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS PRESIDENT HAQ

BK261630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Mr Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Cuban foreign minister and special envoy of President Fidel Castro, called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq this morning. He delivered a personal letter from President Castro who is also the current chairman of the nonalined movement. Adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi, and the foreign secretary also took part in the talks.

In his letter President Castro conveyed his thoughts and ideas concerning the recent developments in the region reflecting his desire to serve the cause of peace and contribute to a political solution of the problems which had arisen. The president expressed his appreciation for President Castro's gesture in sending the distinguished foreign minister as his special envoy to Pakistan and the warm sentiments conveyed in his personal message. He informed the Cuban foreign minister that he valued President Castro's concern over the situation in the region and assured him of a considered response to his letter.

The adviser on foreign affairs is hosting a dinner tonight for the Cuban foreign minister.

Departs 27 Mar; Shahi Comments

BK270626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmiarca Peoli, who had come to Pakistan as a special envoy of President Fidel Castro, concluded his visit and left Islamabad for home this morning.

Mr Peoli is carrying with him President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's letter in reply to a personal letter from President Castro. The Cuban foreign minister had delivered President Castro's message to the president during his meeting with him. Gen Mohammad Ziaul's Haq's reply was delivered to Mr Peoli by foreign affairs adviser, Agha Shahi, who saw him off at the Islamabad airport. President Castro has expressed his desire to serve the cause of peace and contribute to a political solution of problems which have arisen in the region.

After the departure of the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Agha Shahi said President Castro's message and the Cuban foreign minister's visit was the first contact with Cuba, the current chairman of the nonalined movement, on the Afghan crisis. He said that during the talks with the Cuban foreign minister views were exchanged on procedures to initiate negotiations on the Afghan crisis, and Pakistan's stand was clarified.

He said the Cuban foreign minister was told that Pakistan's stand on the Afghan situation is based on the Islamic foreign ministers conference resolutions.

Asked to comment on the Iranian proposal to convene a regional conference on Afghanistan, Mr Agha Shahi said Pakistan has not received the proposal officially, and so nothing could be said on this.

During a press conference in Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister had said that the Soviet Union had agreed to participate in this regional conference, with possible participation by Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.